



**Students' Association
Film and Television Institute of India,
Law College Road,
Pune: 411004**

Pune
14-08-2015

FTII STRIKE: Day 64

Today, the Director instructed the faculties to go ahead with the assessment in spite of the students and faculties raised their concerns regarding this unfair and unjust assessment being conducted for the diploma films of 2008 batch by victimizing them, at a wrong time. Students again had to meet the Director in this context, to make him understand that he alone or the Ministry cannot bypass the rules or the Decision made by the Academic Council, since it is the supreme body of the Institute which is entitled to Academic Decisions. There was confusion between the Director and the registrar whether the AC exists or not. Then the students tried to explain how the AC works and how it has been working for the past one and half years even in the absence of Society and Governing council. We made our argument clear that the Ministry doesn't have any prerogative to overpower the Academic Council in taking decisions related to the academics of the premiere film school of the country, that too during a disputed time. The students requested the Director to look into the administrative flaws which resulted in the delay in completion of course in the past 15 years rather than taking blind decision against the students. Also, we asked him to do follow up of the letters which we sent to different authorities including the Ministry at different points of time. Later, the director decided to put the assessment on hold till Monday, after having the meeting with the faculties. They will again meet on Monday at 3pm to decide further.

On 11 August 2015, the FTII Administration issued a notice to the contractual staff of the institute, stating that they are going to lay off the contract staff from 1st September 2015. The contract agency 'SIGMA Human resources (India) Pvt. Ltd has sent an official note today, to the Registrar FTII replying that the service of 82 staff from different departments shall be terminated. There was a constant attempt from the Administration's side to arm twist the stakeholders of the place for different reasons at different points of time. The Administration has taken anti-workers policies many times in the past. All these time, the Students Association of FTII has been proactively working to resolve the issues of the contractual unorganized employees of FTII in all possible ways and we will continue to do so. Any measures to arm twist the stakeholders of FTII are undesirable and uncalled for. We strongly condemn this move and extend full support and solidarity to each member of the staff who feels threatened.

The students of the FTII are, to remind ourselves and the nation, what it really is to be free as citizens of this country, are organizing - "Retracing Freedom", a weeklong festival from the 15th to the 22nd of August. The festival aspires to trace the genesis of the art and cinema of our nation and to observe how art is not for indulgence but a basic need of a society. The festival with began with 48 hours of continuous screenings starting from 15h of August, 10 am onwards. We are inviting artists, academicians, filmmakers, musicians, painters, writers, students, teachers and public at large for a series of film screenings, panel discussions, lectures, talks, poetry recitals, songs on freedom and workshops to perform and interact with the students through this week.

Students' Association, FTII
Youtube- ftiistudentsbody@gmail.com,
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/FTII-Wisdom-Tree>